



Francis Tate Barn

Francis Tate came to America from England with his family in 1876 and settled in Salt Lake City. In 1898, he purchased the farm of Curtiss and McClellan and some time around the turn-of-the-century built this barn.

The Tate barn was the first of its kind in Wasatch County and was built by real craftsmen. It has a timber frame which means that the barn was built by mortise and tenon. This method of building used one inch oak dowels rather than nails for connecting the timber.

Because this barn was built before electricity everything was done with hand saws, drills, chisels and wooden mallets. Each hole was hand drilled a little bit smaller than the dowel which was then hammered into the hole with a wooden mallet. This mallet was called a beetle and looked somewhat like a huge sledge hammer, the head being a log about eight inches in diameter and the handle being four feet long.

The barn was first put together

on the ground in individual sections called bents (kind of like trusses that we use today). Each bent was built on the ground and then with the use of horses, pulleys and a great deal of man power were stood up and put together with connecting beams. Men from all around would come to help stand up and connect the bents. The barn is made from red pine which is believed to have been taken out of Snake Creek.

Mr. Tate raised purebred short-

horn cattle and Percheron horses and had one of the first herds of pure bred cattle. His cattle were ranged on a 1,100 acre tract of grazing ground in the Deer Creek area. He later went in for Hereford cattle and developed one of the finest Jersey dairy herds in the valley.

In 1963 or 1964, this barn and surrounding property was purchased by the State Park. This past February heavy snow caused a partial cave-in of the barn's roof.

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